

## Virginia Department of Historic Resources

### PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

<b>General Property Information</b>	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #:
Property Name(s): <u>George Washington High School (now George Washington Middle School)</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1935, 1938, 1941, 1947</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue</u> City: <u>Alexandria</u> Zip: <u>22301</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Ind. City of Alexandria</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>Alexandria, VA-DC-MD</u>	

<b>Physical Character of General Surroundings</b>	
Acreage: <u>23.879</u>	Setting (choose one): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: <u>The 286,000 square-foot building is situated on level ground within a trapezoidal lot encompassing 1,040,169 square feet, located on the east side of Mt. Vernon Avenue between Glendale Avenue and Braddock Road.<sup>i</sup> The flat site is covered with grass interspersed with trees, shrubs and sidewalks. Parking areas and playing fields lie to the east and south. The south side of the building fronts a gentle slope bisected by five (5) steps.</u>	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: <u>There is a contributing (1941) Mechanical Arts Building which is in the same style as the original building (1935) and its two additions (1938 and 1947).</u>	
Ownership Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

<b>Individual Resource Information</b>	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
<u>(Public High) School</u>	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>(Public Middle) School</u>	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Art Deco</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>Division of School Buildings, State Department of Education (Raymond V. Long), architect. Doyle &amp; Russell, builder. David E. Bayliss, contractor. Calvin Tilden Own, contractor</u>	
# of stories <u>3</u>	Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>None known</u>	

<p><b>Resource Component Information</b></p> <p>Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer “n/a.” If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) façade of the structure.</p>
<p><b>Foundation:</b> Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete.</p> <p><b>Raised basement of continuous Indiana limestone block; concrete floors</b></p>
<p><b>Structure:</b> Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known.</p> <p><b>Steel columns, beams, and joists; red brick 3:1 common bond and limestone block exterior</b></p>
<p><b>Walls:</b> Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles.</p> <p><b>Red brick with limestone trim. The north elevation is laid in a common bond with every fourth course alternating stretchers and headers.</b></p>
<p><b>Windows:</b> Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced?</p> <p><b>FAÇADE:</b> metal frame, sixty-six (66) 10/10/10-light, six (6) 8/8/8-light, three (3) 6/6/6-light, and four (4) 4/4/4-light triple-sash windows (total 79). Three metal-frame, multi-light entrance doors with single-light fixed-pane transoms.</p> <p><b>SOUTH and NORTH ELEVATIONS:</b> five (5) 2-story glass-block windows over five (5) multi-light doors; thirty-six (36) metal frame, 10/10/10-light triple-sash windows (total 41).</p> <p><b>REAR ELEVATION:</b> metal frame, twenty-nine (29) 10/10/10-light triple-sash, five (5) 18/12/12-light fixed-pane, four (4) 18-light fixed-pane, seven (7) 15/10/10-light triple sash, three (3) 16-light casement and one (1) 12-light casement windows (total 49).</p> <p><b>All windows and doors have been replaced although in original configuration.</b></p>
<p><b>Porch:</b> Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details.</p> <p><b>The entrance has a one-story, granite staircase leading to a stoop with Indiana limestone wall “railings” and piers.</b></p>
<p><b>Roof:</b> Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material.</p> <p><b>Flat, gypsum slab on steel joists</b></p>
<p><b>Chimney(s):</b> List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible.</p> <p><b>N/A; HVAC system on roof</b></p>

**Architectural Description of Individual Resource:** *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)*

The Art Deco-style **George Washington High School (GWHS)** building at 1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue was built between 1934 and 1935 and expanded in 1938 and 1947. The original, T-shaped edifice was designed by the Division of School Buildings, [Virginia] State Department of Education, which was then headed by State School Architect Raymond V. Long, and constructed by the Richmond-based contracting firm Doyle & Russell.<sup>ii</sup> In 1937, the Division of School Buildings prepared drawings for the south wing, which was completed by contractor Calvin T. Owens the following year at a cost of \$157,500.<sup>iii</sup> [Figure 1] In 1947, a north wing was built to provide more classroom and library space, creating the present footprint, which resembles a squared figure 8 with two interior, enclosed courtyards. In addition, a separate Mechanical Arts Building was erected immediately south of the school in 1941. These two buildings (with a non-contributing addition which connects the two historic cores) comprise an open, scholastic campus on a 24-acre parcel bounded by E. Glendale Avenue on the north, Mt. Vernon Avenue on the west, Braddock Road on the south, and the RF&P Railroad lines on the east.

In December 1933, the City of Alexandria purchased 15.5 acres at the northeast intersection of Braddock (then called Mushpot) Road and Mt. Vernon Avenue for \$1,100 per acre from the McCallum Company, a real-estate development holding formed in Pennsylvania.<sup>iv</sup> Construction on the original core was begun in August 1934 and completed by September 1935.<sup>v</sup> [Figure 2] Built for approximately \$350,000 (which included the \$17,050 paid for the seven-acre parcel on which it sat), the “most modern [school building] in this section of Virginia” featured 30 classrooms with slate blackboards and 12 flexible room spaces, offices for the Superintendent and Principal, a library, a 900-seat auditorium with gallery, boys’ and girls’ locker rooms with showers, halls with steel lockers, and a gymnasium.<sup>vi</sup> The building first appears on the 1941 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia<sup>vii</sup> labeled as a steel column and beam structure with brick walls, concrete floors, and a gypsum slab roof on steel joists. The cafeteria was located in the rear on the first floor, while the gym was located directly above. Behind the school, wooden frame bleachers and a one-story outbuilding surrounded athletic fields. In this site plan, the original T-shape footprint had been morphed into a ‘b’ shape by the 1938 southern wing. [Figure 3]

The original building is a three-story, nine-bay, horizontal pile positioned on the southeast corner of Mt. Vernon and E. Glendale avenues. It rises from a raised basement of Indiana limestone and terminates in a flat roof coped with stone. The ornate central pavilion, composed of Indiana limestone blocks, forms a contrast to the flanking wings of stark red brick laid in a 3:1 common bond, in which the single course alternates stretchers and headers. Each wing contains four bays separated by decorative limestone pilasters, their keystone heads rising above the roofline. Each bay is further divided into three window bays by brick pilasters which terminate in limestone capitals carved with urn-acanthus leaf motifs. The façade’s fenestration features 79 apertures, configured as triple-sash windows with multiple lights. The lintels are composed of soldier bricks and the sills are brick headers.

The GWHS building’s Art Deco features are distinctive and highly manifest in the massive, 3-½ -story Indiana limestone entrance surround which projects above the roofline. The three-bay pavilion is configured as a recessed central bay flanked by narrow projecting bays. The embrasures of the outer bays feature stylized, winged eagles and vertical striations. The central, recessed bay is fluted and features panels carved in geometric lines. A one-story “grand staircase” comprising wide, Indiana limestone stairs leads to the entrance marked by three multi-light metal doors with single-light, fixed transoms. The staircase’s bottom five steps curve behind massive, octagonal fluted stone piers and walls. These walls serve as the stair rails and are decorated with a Greek-key design on the inner and outer surfaces directly under the capstones. There are two landings, one at the tenth step and another at the top of the staircase. Below the second-story reeding is a coffered plinth, and the wall continues down to the raised basement in a fluted design. The façade is entirely intact, as are the original, westernmost 1.5 bays on the southern and northern elevations. However, the bronze doors mentioned in *the Washington Post* article of August 1935 are no longer extant, and the windows are replacements in the same configuration as the originals.<sup>viii</sup>

The three-story southern elevation was originally 1.5 bays deep, but was enlarged to 5.5 bays with the 1938 extension. The L-shaped southern addition provided 18 additional rooms and spaces for shop classes.<sup>ix</sup> It is stylistically indistinguishable from the original building, and provides a secondary entrance via a centralized limestone pavilion. Although the central pavilion resembles that on the façade, it is notable for its emphasized verticality rendered by five 2-½ -story glass-block apertures above five multi-light doors. The outer two doors have coffin-shaped stone surrounds, while the three central entrances are decorated with original bronze fascia, comprising nine square panels with central rosettes. The L-shaped northern elevation, an addition completed in 1947, is identical to the southern elevation. This north wing first appears in the 1958 edition of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria.<sup>x</sup> [Figure 4]

The GWHS interior has many original features intact, most notably the 1935 auditorium with proscenium arch, coffin-headed door and ventilation surrounds, cast-iron seating, and gallery. The proscenium arch decoration includes bold horizontal reeding with pleated-fan corners, a running chevron design, a wave-like fluting pattern above, and a horizontally reeded cornice. Pilasters embrace the arch and feature

narrow fluting with plain, bold capitals. The chevron, wave-like fluting, and cornice design continues along the walls next to the arch and the side walls of the auditorium. Only the fluting and cornice continue at the back, above the balcony. The gallery front features a decorative pattern consisting of three central recessed squares flanked by two recessed rectangles and an additional square at each end. The cast-iron seats are original and feature a stylized half-flower and stop-fluted design. Some of the hallway entrances have a sculpted archway while many hallways have the original yellow-tan colored tile work which extends from the floor to shoulder height. Many cast-iron stairwells are original. Original pilasters with stylized sun-chevron designs, as well as the plain molded entablature and cornice, survive in at least one classroom.

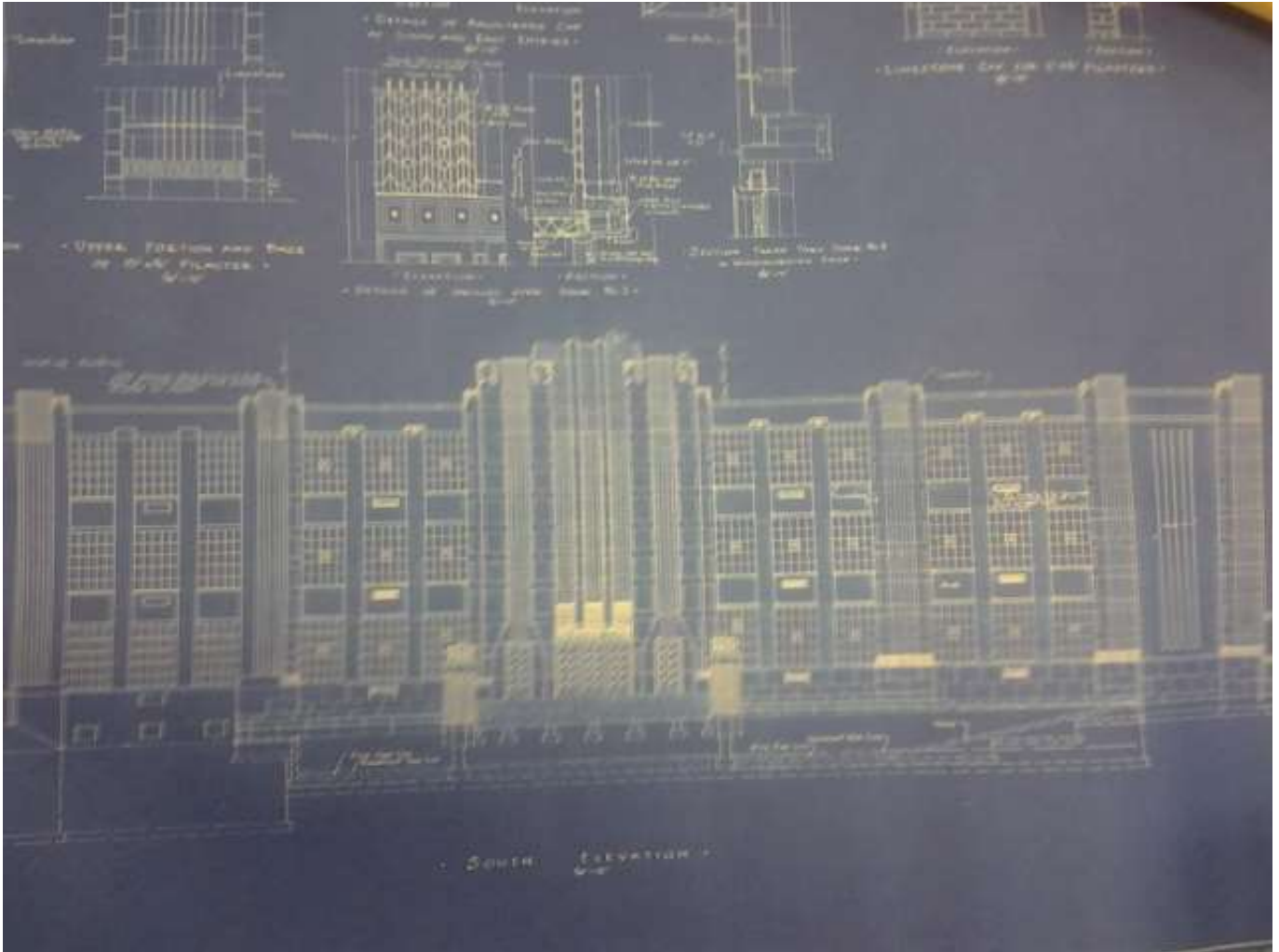
The 1941 **Mechanical Arts Building** (MAB) is the second contributing resource on the school campus. Built in the Art Deco style by local contractor, David E. Bayliss, the E-shaped building is located immediately south of the school and fronts Mt. Vernon Avenue.<sup>xi</sup> First appearing on the 1941 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia as a free-standing building comprising concrete floors and a gypsum slab roof on steel joists, [Figure 3] the northern elevation has been attached to a late-20<sup>th</sup>-century addition which connects the MAB to the original GWHS building. The building's brick façade with limestone trim and its similarly rendered southern elevation are largely intact; the eastern (rear) elevation has been modified heavily.

The MAB is a brick building (laid in a 2:1 common bond in which the single course alternates headers and stretchers) with limestone trim and features. It rises one-story from a continuous brick foundation to a flat roof coped in metal. It is nine bays wide (four bays flanking a central pavilion) and six bays deep, although only three bays are visible on the northern elevation. The building's historic main entrance, with its decorative limestone surround, has been filled by a modern metal-frame window above which is a geometrically-patterned panel. The surround features bulky, projecting pilasters decorated with carved machine cogs and compasses. The central, recessed surround terminates in a plain parapet decorated with a band of carved, interlocking ogee arches and a centralized, ribbed panel with the word 'SHOP' carved in a period, block font and oriented vertically. The four vertical bands surrounding the lettering extend above the parapet, and lend a Steamline Moderne aura to the feature. As on the GWHS building, the fenestration's lintels are soldier bricks while the sills are composed of brick headers. A belt course consisting of a row of headers above a row of soldier bricks lies at the water-table height above the brick foundation. Massive, protruding brick pilasters with geometrically-carved limestone block capitals and stone bases divide each elevation into window bays. Although the fenestration has been modified with smaller windows and panels, the apertures' original configuration is easily recognizable.

The George Washington Memorial Stadium, located to the east of the GWHS building, was dedicated in 1947. The old wooden bleachers were replaced by concrete structures with wooden seats on steel frames, and the state-of-the-art stadium featured a quarter-mile track, a lighted football field, and an electronic scoreboard. From the outset, the new stadium hosted collegiate and professional football games.<sup>xii</sup> It was such a popular venue that the city's Chamber of Commerce gave \$37,000 to increase the stadium's seating from 11,500 to 14,800 seats in 1949.<sup>xiii</sup> By the time the 1958 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia was published, the stadium appeared as parallel bleachers marked as "wooden seats on steel frames" along with the notation for a "Noncomb[ustible]" structure with a concrete floor, concrete roof on steel joists, and cinder block walls built in 1950.<sup>xiv</sup> [Figure 4]

Continuous renovations and alteration were made to the GWHS building from the outset: almost as soon as it opened, it became apparent that the school would not sustain expanding student enrollment. In 1961, the Tulloch Memorial Gymnasium was built, and in 1970 the cafeteria was altered. A fire in 1970 caused so much damage to the interior that repairs were made throughout the decade. Between 1978 and 1979, offices were altered and the interior remodeled. Fire and security systems were upgraded in 1983, and a passenger elevator added in 1985.<sup>xv</sup> The modern hyphen connecting GWHS building with MAB was

design by the Hillier Architecture and constructed in 2002-2003, at which time alterations were made to both historic buildings.<sup>xvi</sup>



Figures 1: South Elevation (1937). “Addition and Alterations to George Washington High School, Corner of Mt. Vernon Ave. and Cedar Street, Alexandria, Virginia.” Plan No. 834, June 1937. Division of School Buildings, State Department of Education, Richmond, Virginia. Repository: City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.

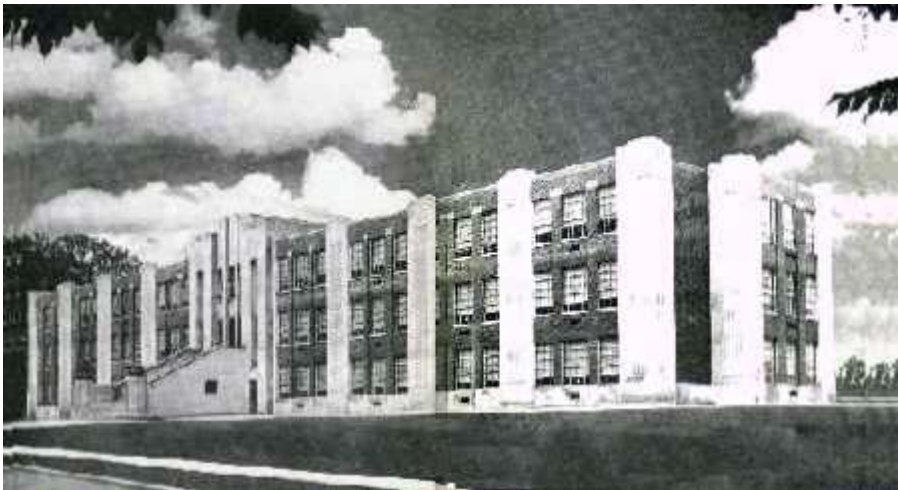


Figure 2: Image of GWHS soon after its completion in 1935.

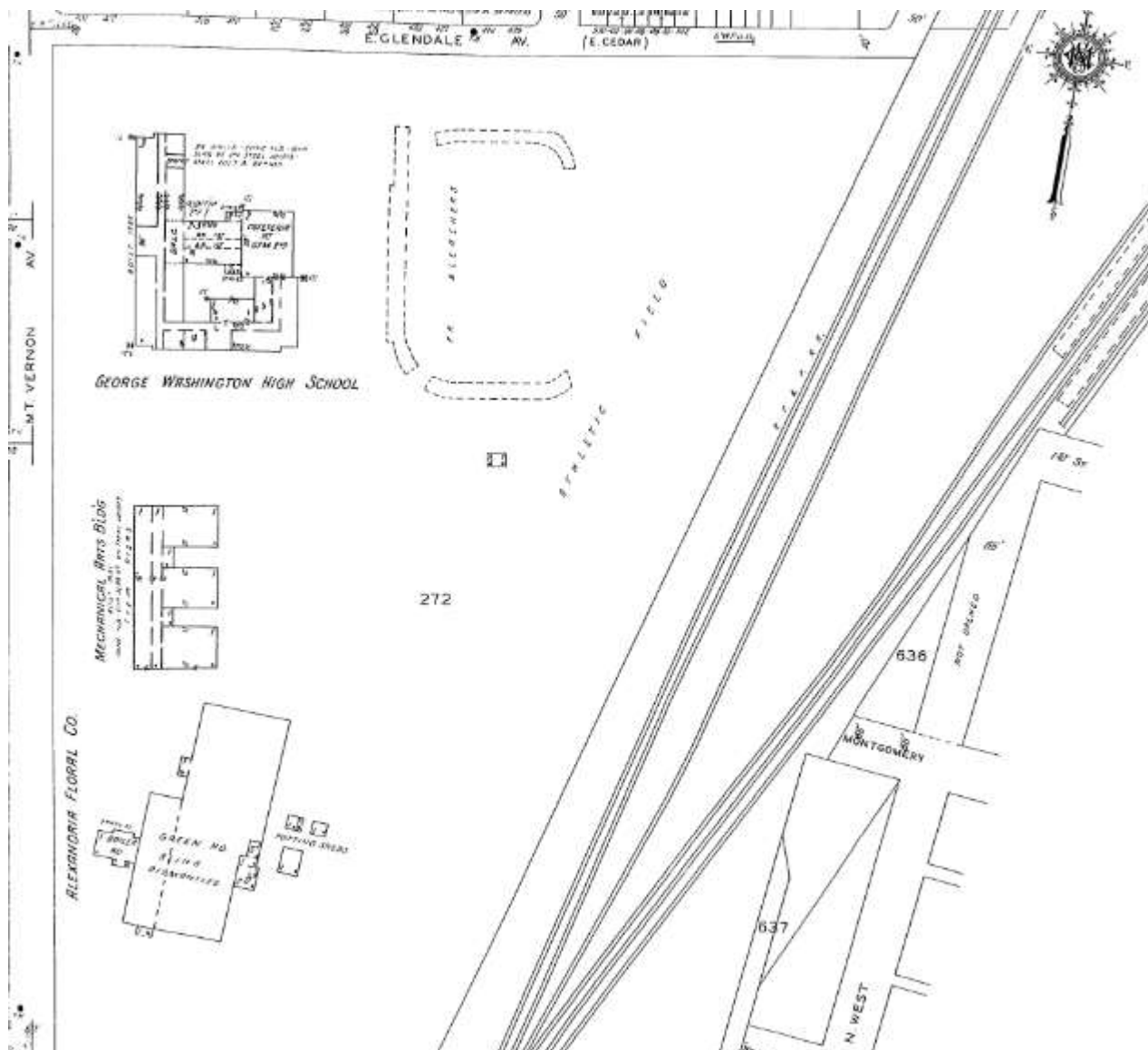


Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1941, Vol. 1, Sheet 40.



**Significance Statement:** Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

Named after Virginia's native son and the country's first President, the GWHS building lies in a neighborhood generally known as Braddock Heights, immediately south of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century subdivision, Park Addition. [Figure 5] This land originally fell within the Jefferson Magisterial District of Alexandria County, and was annexed by the City of Alexandria in 1915. The trapezoidal parcel on which the building is sited once belonged to the Swann and Calvert estates. A 1900 map of Alexandria County, prepared for the Virginia Title Company by Howell & Taylor, depicts the present site as a 21.5-acre, undeveloped parcel belonging to Helen M. Calvert. A triangular sliver of land, less than half of the 7.43 acres ascribed to the whole parcel belonging to Alexander C. Williams, abuts Mt. Vernon Avenue and also comprises part of the present site.<sup>xvii</sup> [Figure 6] When Edward J. McCallum and Thomas J. Beck purchased the 21.5-acre parcel for \$13,000 in 1927, it was described as "designated No. 5 on plat annexed to the deed of partition between Thomas W. and Helen M. Swann, Hampton C. and Frances A. Williams"<sup>xviii</sup> and "being the property inherited by Susan P.A. Calvert from her mother, the late Helen M. Swann."<sup>xix</sup> The 21.5-acre parcel, however, was conveyed minus a 8.5-acre swath Susan P.A. Calvert previously sold to the Washington Southern Railway Co. (which developed the rail lines on the eastern edge of the site) and with a 2.44-acre parcel Calvert had purchased from Mary F.S. Williams, making the total 15.5 acres – the amount which the McCallum Company later sold to the City of Alexandria.

The area remained rural and under-developed for decades after the annexation, yet the Deed of Trust issued by McCallum and Beck in 1927 describes the tract as containing buildings and greenhouses; a curiosity supported by the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, which shows a small building at the northeast corner of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Braddock Road, with a large greenhouse immediately to the north labeled "Dunbarr Floral Co. Green Ho's."<sup>xx</sup> [Figure 7] By the time the 1931 Sanborn map was published, the northern portion of the lot appears undeveloped yet the southern portion is filled with wooden framed greenhouses and the notation "J. Ludivicy, Green Houses."<sup>xxi</sup> [Figure 8] The greenhouses and three one-story potting sheds appeared in the 1941 Sanborn map, with the name Alexandria Floral Co. associated with it, and the notation "Green Ho. Being Dismantled," by the 1958 Sanborn edition, the greenhouses were gone. [see Figures 3 and 4]

After the City of Alexandria annexed the Town of Potomac in 1930, the Mt. Vernon Avenue corridor was slated for commercial development. This is apparent in a ca.-1933 map prepared by urban planner Irving C. Root of the Alexandria City Zoning and Planning Commission, which also shows the undeveloped GWHS tract as zoned for residential development. [Figure 9] Yet a ca.-1934 real-property survey conducted under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) shows the lot – designated as McCallum's property – as slated for mixed residential-commercial development, suggesting that the city's decision to build a school on that lot had been made by that time.<sup>xxii</sup> [Figure 10] When the City of Alexandria purchased this property from McCallum Company in 1933, the Great Depression was thoroughly entrenched and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's 'New Deal' programs had just been initiated. These federal programs were intended not only to put unemployed men and women to work, but to build necessary and sorely lacking infrastructure, such as schools. Funds were administered to municipalities through various "alphabet agencies," such as FERA, the CWA, and the PWA, and "Virginia availed itself of these programs... More than 40,000 Virginians were employed on FERA projects building schools, roads, and sewer systems."<sup>xxiii</sup>

The GWHS was built in 1934-1935 with funding provided by the Federal Emergency Public Works Administration,<sup>xxiv</sup> and cannot be considered outside of the context of national infrastructural works undertaken during the Great Depression. The PWA "helped to finance the construction of approximately 70 percent of all school-building construction in the United States" between 1933 and 1937.<sup>xxv</sup> By 1936, the PWA had initiated over 300 educational building construction projects in Virginia and administered



nearly five million dollars in grants and over three million dollars in loans to municipalities across the state. The schools that were built varied in style, yet the majority advertised in PWA booklets from the period exhibit Art Deco features and characteristics. Art Deco radiated an aura of modernity and an optimism that befitted the Roosevelt administration's vision for a new America.<sup>xxvi</sup>

The high quality of the Art Deco execution on the GWHS building can be attributed to the in-house architects at the Division of School Buildings in the [Virginia] State Department of Education, overseen by Raymond Victor Long. Long (1887-1960) was born in Hagerstown, Maryland and was educated at Columbia University, from where he was graduated with a B.S. in 1913 and an M.A. in 1914. Settling in Farmville, Virginia by 1915,<sup>xxvii</sup> Long met and married Harriet Crute Paulett in 1916, with whom he had his son Raymond V., Jr. and his daughter H. Paulette in 1917 and 1923 respectively. By 1920, the Long family was residing in Richmond.<sup>xxviii</sup> Long was an educator as well as an architect, serving as the state Supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education in 1924 and as the State School Architect between 1923 and 1937. In this latter capacity, he was responsible for the designs of 35 public school buildings across the Commonwealth, including a high school in Lexington (1927), an addition to the Bridgewater High School (1930), and the Art Deco-style Booker T. Washington High School (1936) in Staunton.<sup>xxix</sup> Closer to home, Long is attributed with the designs of the Claude A. Swanson Junior High School (1939) and the Walter Reed Elementary School (1938), both in neighboring Arlington County, as well as a nursery for African-American children (1943) at 224 N. Fayette Street in Alexandria.

The 1935 section of the GWHS was constructed by the Richmond-based contracting firm of Doyle & Russell, headed by Hobart E. Doyle. Doyle was born in Virginia in 1890 and attended Cornell University. His firm is attributed with the 1938 Virginia State Library Building in Richmond as well as the Pentagon Building (1941) in Arlington. The 1938 south addition was constructed by Calvin Tilden Owens (1906-1975), general contractor, about whom not much is currently known. The 1941 MAB, however, was constructed by a local contractor and Alexandria resident, David E. Bayliss. Bayliss built a number of edifices in the city during this era, including the three-story brick apartment building at 2701-2705 Mt. Vernon Avenue (1941) and the Streamline Moderne commercial structure at 1509-1517 Mt. Vernon Avenue (1941).<sup>xxx</sup> Bayliss is also credited with building the Capitol Theatre (1939), an Art Deco/Streamline Moderne movie house designed by John Zink and intended for African-American patrons within the Parker-Gray neighborhood of Alexandria.<sup>xxxi</sup> In 1940, when issued a permit to erect a concrete, limestone, and granite Memorial for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bayliss (residing at 518 King Street in Alexandria) was listed as an architect as well as builder.<sup>xxxii</sup> His work in the area was so prolific that he warranted mention in the 1922 edition of *Manufacturers' Record*, volume 8, and a place in *Prominent Builders of Virginia*, published by the Architects Publishing Company circa 1940.

When GWHS opened its doors in September 1935, it accepted the merged student bodies of Alexandria High School and George Mason High School. Henry T. Moncure was the first principal of 1,200 students and 35 faculty members. GWHS served only a white population from 1935 until integration was instituted in 1965. The 1957 school-year witnessed the last class to graduate from GWHS intact; in 1958, half of the upperclassmen graduated from Francis C. Hammond High School on Seminary Road. In 1971, T.C. Williams High School became the city's only school to serve junior and senior high-school aged children, while GW and Hammond served the city's ninth and tenth grade populations. In 1979, GW became a Junior High School, housing seventh through ninth grades. In 1993, GW officially became one of the city's two middle schools, educating students from sixth through eighth grades. And in 2009, in a further reorganization of Alexandria's school system, the building was split into two middle schools: GW1 and GW2.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

Throughout the decades, nationally and regionally notable persons walked through those halls and were graduated from GWHS, including Willard Scott (Class of '51) author, NBC news anchor, and the original Ronald McDonald; radio broadcaster Donald Merrill (Don) Beagle (Class of '50), who was inducted into the Richmond Broadcasters Hall of Fame; and Jim Morrison (Class of '61), an excellent student and the

celebrated lead singer for “The Doors.” In the same class as Morrison was Ellen Naomi Cohen (aka Mama Cass Elliot) of The Mamas & The Papas, while one of The Papas, John Phillips, graduated in the Class of 1953. Other luminaries include Francis C. Hammond (Class of ’51), who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for aiding and assisting in the evacuation of wounded marines from Sanae-Dong during the Korean Conflict, and Guy S. Gardner (Class of ’65), a NASA astronaut and pilot of the orbiters Atlantis (1980) and Columbia (1990). Presidents visited the campus and watched football games at the GW Memorial Stadium, which witnessed the Redskins lose to the Packers in 1951. On 7 August 1965, quarterback Joe Namath made his professional debut at a pre-season American Football League game between the New York Jets and the Houston Oilers. The high school’s stadium was expanded that year to 25,000 seats and tickets to see Namath play sold for the hefty sum of \$6.00.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

The GWHS building, designed by a notable Virginia architect and state agency, is one of the largest and signature examples of Art Deco in Alexandria. The building has functioned continuously as a school since its inception, and its stalwart presence on Mt. Vernon Avenue adds to the commercial character of the thoroughfare. Because the building lies south of Bellefonte Avenue (the historic southern boundary of the 1894 streetcar suburb, Del Ray), it lies outside the boundaries of the Town of Potomac Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. However, the building meets Criteria A and C of the NRHP, being of high architectural merit while having significance in its association with numerous persons of note and hosting regionally important historical events. It is also a remnant of President Roosevelt’s New Deal initiatives, which were rampant across the nation throughout the Great Depression. It retains integrity in its setting, location, design, materials, and feeling.



Figure 5: Map of the City of Alexandria, Office of City Engineers, 1948. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 8.



Figure 6: Howell & Taylor, “Map of Alexandria County, Virginia for the Virginia Title Co., 1900.” Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 5. The present site is seen in the center of the map, marked as the 21.5a property of Helen M. Calvert and part of the 7.43a property of Alex. C. Williams.

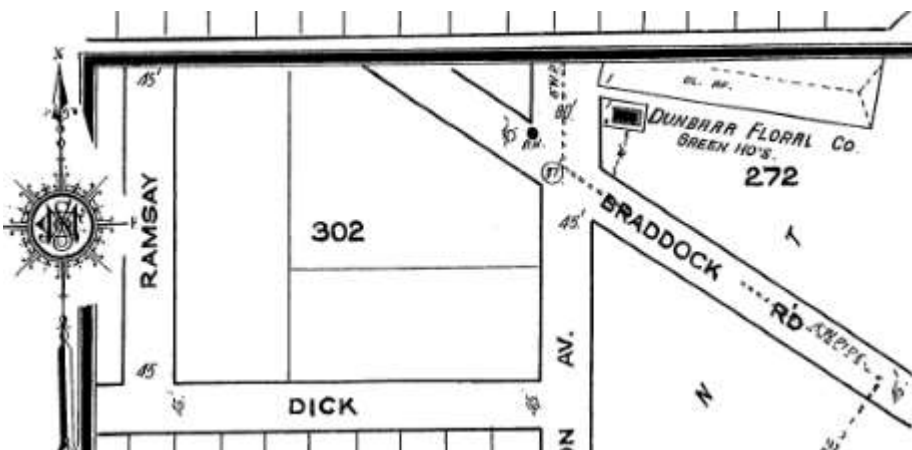


Figure 7: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, August 1921, Sheet 27. The parcel on which the GWHS building would be erected 14 years later contains the ‘Dunbarr Floral Co. Green Ho’s.’

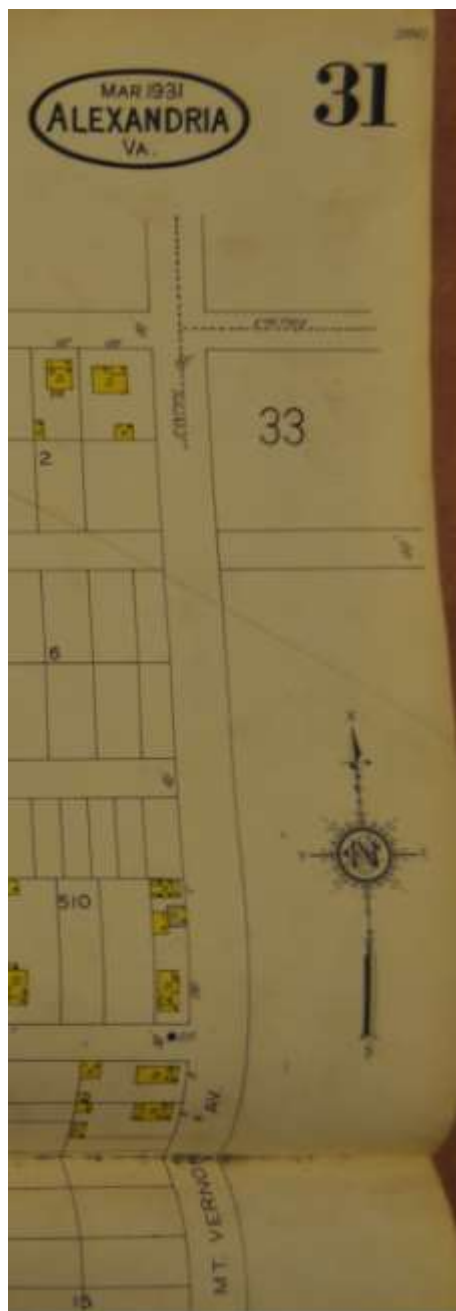


Figure 8, left: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, August 1931, Sheet 31. The parcel on which the GWHS building would be erected 3 years later – shown on the extreme right of each image – contains nothing in the northern half (marked by the compass) but contains greenhouses marked 'J. Ludivicy' in the southern half.



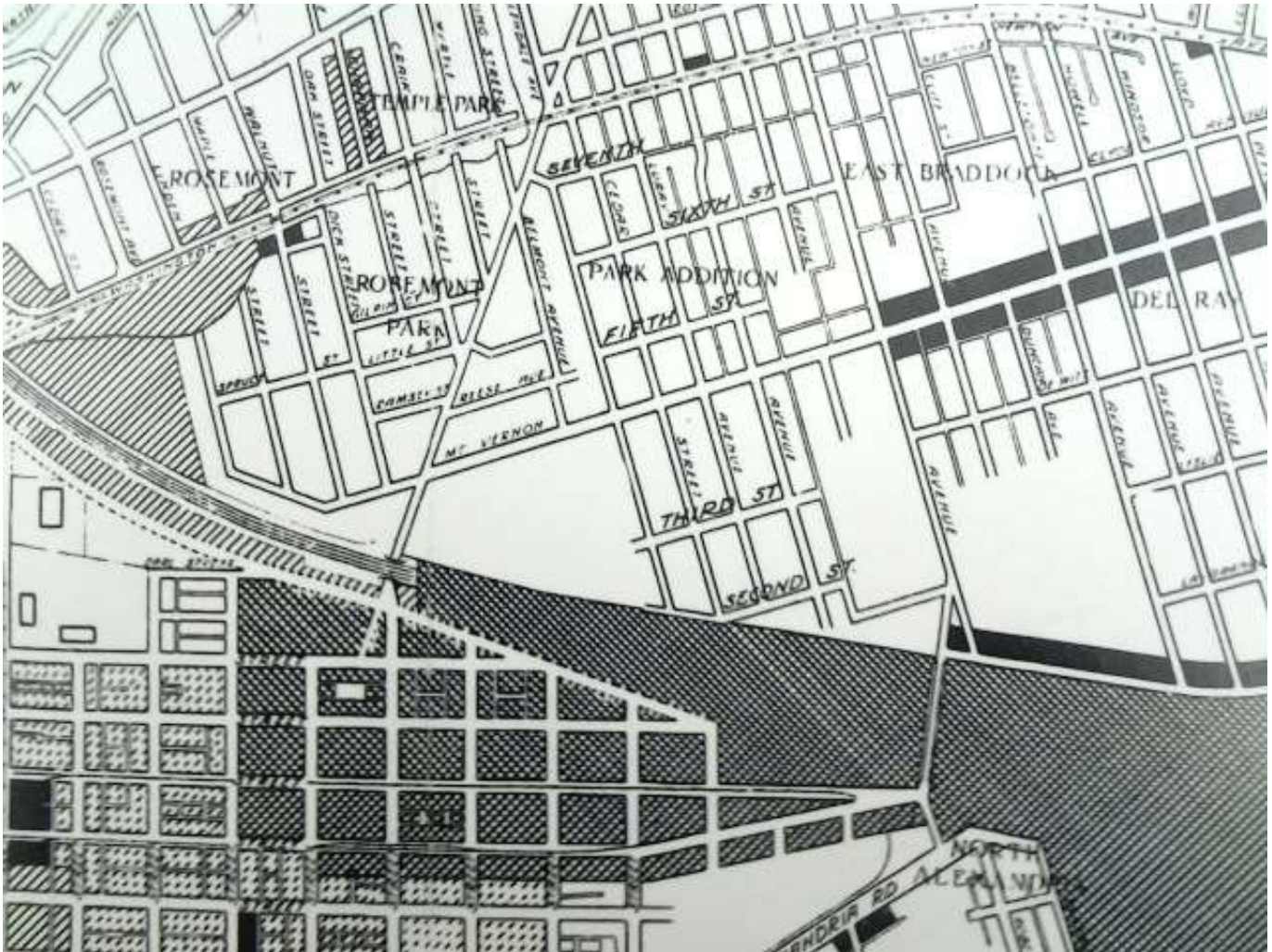


Figure 9: Alexandria City Zoning and Planning Commission, Irving C. Root, "City of Alexandria, Virginia" ca. 1933. The various hatching patterns denote different zoning areas. The black band flanking Mt. Vernon Avenue (to the right) signifies commercial development. The white of the vast central parcel (the GWHS site) signifies residential development. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 7.



Figure 10, left: WPA, "Real Property Survey: Land Use Survey Maps, Alexandria, Virginia." O.P. No. 665-31-3-276, Vol. II, 1939, p.203. The hatching denotes mixed residential and commercial/public zoning function on this large parcel. Note the continuation of Jackson Avenue east of Mt. Vernon Avenue and the subdivision that was part of Park Addition (top of the image); this was never realized. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 5.









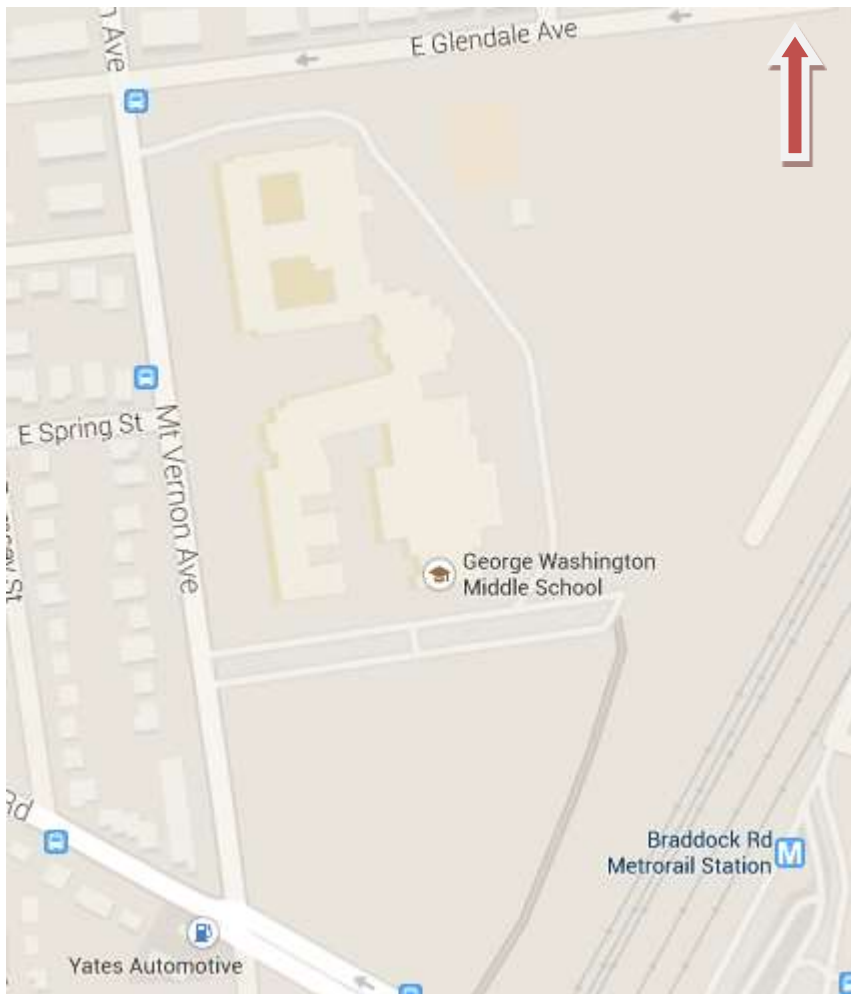




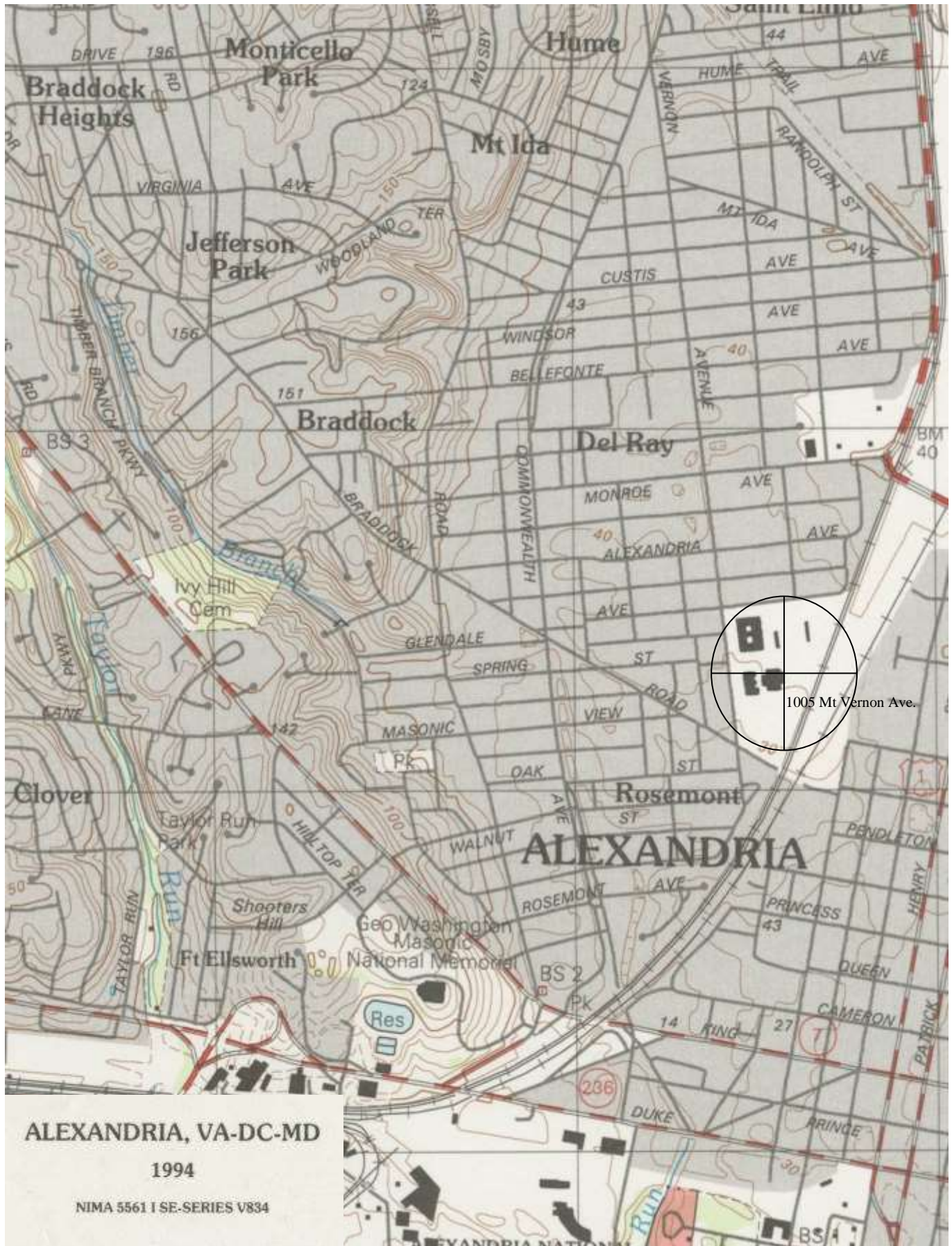
The George Washington High School building is the most imposing structure representing the Art Deco style within the City of Alexandria. It is essentially intact, exhibiting integral period decorative elements which make GWHS unique. The additions dating to 1938 and 1947 are identical in structure and design with the exception of the glass-block windows. Per the additions' later construction dates, these features are a nod to the Streamline Moderne style. The contemporary additions to the building are at the back or to the side and do not conflict with the historical vision of the main edifice bordering Mt. Vernon Avenue. The more modest Mechanical Arts Building (1941) is built in the Art Deco style and complements the original GWHS building. Though alterations appear at the structure's rear, it should be considered as a contributing structure.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes ☐ No ☐



Building outline not to scale. 2014.





## ENDNOTES

- <sup>i</sup> City of Alexandria Real Estate Assessment database, Account No. 13339500, Assessment Map 054.01-01-01. Alexandria Clerk of Court - Court of Records. N.b. that the lot's square feet equivalent acreage (23.879) is greater than the acreage listed in the deeds of trust (15.5).
- <sup>ii</sup> "City Council Award Contract for School: Firm Doyle and Russell of Richmond to Erect Building" in *Alexandria Gazette*, August 1, 1934, p. 1. The article states that the low bid of \$292,369 was accepted unanimously at the previous evening's Council meeting.
- <sup>iii</sup> "School Annex To Be Inspected at Alexandria: Building Almost Complete for Opening Day on Thursday," in *Washington Post*, September 6, 1938.
- <sup>iv</sup> City of Alexandria Deed Book 115, page 388, from 11 December 1933: McCallum Company, Grantor to City of Alexandria, Virginia, Grantee, with L.H. Dudley and William P. Woolls, Trustees. Chain of Title begins with City of Alexandria Deed Book 123, page 518, from 23 August 1935: McCallum Company, Grantor to City of Alexandria, Virginia, Grantee. Alexandria Clerk of Court - Court of Records.
- <sup>v</sup> "School Building in Alexandria Ready in Fall: 30 Classrooms Included in Modern Structure for Virginia City," in *Washington Post*, August 19, 1935.
- <sup>vi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>vii</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1941, Vol. 1, Sheet 40. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- <sup>viii</sup> "School Building in Alexandria Ready in Fall: 30 Classrooms Included in Modern Structure for Virginia City," in *Washington Post*, August 19, 1935.
- <sup>ix</sup> "School Annex To Be Inspected at Alexandria: Building Almost Complete for Opening Day on Thursday," in *Washington Post*, September 6, 1938.
- <sup>x</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1958, Vol. 1, Sheet 40. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- <sup>xi</sup> New construction permit #3030 from 11 June 1941, for the Mt. Vernon Ave.; Builder: D.E. Bayliss, Owner: City of Alexandria. Repository: City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.
- <sup>xii</sup> Vertical File, "Schools: High Schools in Alexandria." Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch. See also: Dave Beach, *George Washington High School*, website, last updated 2 November 2011. Accessed 18 March 2015 at: <http://gwhsaa.com/st-history.html>
- <sup>xiii</sup> Ibid. Also, New construction permit #4550 from 18 July 1949, for George Washington High School: Builder: Eugene Simpson & Bro., Owner: City of Alexandria. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1958, Vol. 1, Sheet 40. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- <sup>xv</sup> History Card for 1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.
- <sup>xvi</sup> New Construction permit #1530 from 5 April 1985, for addition to GWHS. City of Alexandria Archives and Records Center.
- <sup>xvii</sup> Howell & Taylor, "Map of Alexandria County, Virginia for the Virginia Title Co., 1900." Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawer 5.
- <sup>xviii</sup> For derivation of Title, see Arlington County Land Records, Liber Z, No. 3, page 51.
- <sup>xix</sup> City of Alexandria Deed Book 90, page 495, from 18 May 1927: Edward J. McCallum and Thomas J. Beck, Grantor to L.H. Dudley and William P. Woolls, Trustees. Alexandria Clerk of Court - Court of Records.
- <sup>xx</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1921, Vol. 1, Sheet 27, inset. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- <sup>xxi</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Alexandria, Virginia, 1931, Vol. 1, Sheet 31. Repository: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning, Historic Preservation Department.
- <sup>xxii</sup> Alexandria City Zoning and Planning Commission, Irving C. Root, "City of Alexandria, Virginia" ca. 1933. Also, WPA, "Real Property Survey: Land Use Survey Maps, Alexandria, Virginia." O.P. No. 665-31-3-276, Vol. II, 1939, p.203. Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch: Map collection, drawers 5 and 7.
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Ronald L. Heinemann, "The New Deal in Virginia," in *Encyclopedia Virginia* (Richmond, VA: Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Library of Virginia), website, last update 7 April 2011. Accessed 18 March 2015 at: [http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/new\\_deal\\_in\\_virginia#start\\_entry](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/new_deal_in_virginia#start_entry)
- <sup>xxiv</sup> "City Council Award Contract for School: Firm Doyle and Russell of Richmond to Erect Building" in *Alexandria Gazette*, August 1, 1934, p. 1.
- <sup>xxv</sup> Ickes, Harold I. (Federal Emergency Admin of Public Works), Public Works Administration: Aids to Education (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937) p. 4.
- <sup>xxvi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xxvii</sup> National Education Association of the United States, *N.E.A. Bulletin*, Vols. 4-5, 1915. Also, Virginia Education Association, *Virginia Journal of Education*, Vol. 15, 1921.
- <sup>xxviii</sup> Biographical information gleaned from the U.S. Population Censuses, 1920-1940. Accessed 18 March 2015 on Ancestry.com, website.

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<sup>xxix</sup> William T. Frazier & Nancy Sorrells, "Booker T. Washington High School," Augusta County, Virginia. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2014. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

<sup>xxx</sup> Susan Escherich, Town of Potomac Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1992, Section 7: page 26 and Section 8: page 54.

<sup>xxxi</sup> Terry Necciai and Arianna Drumond, "Uptown/Parker-Gray Historic District," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2008/2010, Section 8: page 299. Accessed 13 June 2014 at: [http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Alexandria/100-0133\\_Uptown-Parker\\_Gray\\_2011\\_FINAL\\_amended\\_nomination.pdf](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Cities/Alexandria/100-0133_Uptown-Parker_Gray_2011_FINAL_amended_nomination.pdf)

<sup>xxxii</sup> Al Cox, City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning, "An Analysis of the Alexandria Union Station: An Historic Structure Report," Prepared for the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, 14 February 1995, page 44. Accessed 13 June 2014 at: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/ARSiteReportUnionStation\(1\).pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/historic/info/archaeology/ARSiteReportUnionStation(1).pdf)

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Vertical File, "Schools: High Schools in Alexandria." Repository: Local History/Special Collections Division of the Alexandria Library, Barrett Branch. See also: Dave Beach, *George Washington High School*, website, last updated 2 November 2011. Accessed 18 March 2015 at: <http://gwhsaa.com/st-history.html>

<sup>xxxiv</sup> "Joe Namath Made his pro football debut at George Washington High School in Alexandria," in *Washington Post*, January 7, 2013. Also, Mark Jones. "Before He Was Broadway Joe" in PBS/WETA *Boundary Stones*, 12.6.12.